

# NIG

Dire Tisiphone there keeps the ward,  
Girt in her sanguine gown by night and day,  
Observant of the souls that pass the downward way. *Dryd.*  
2. It is much used in composition.  
To-NIGHT. *adverbially.* In this night; at this night.  
There came men in hither to-night of the children of Israel, to search out the country. *Jos. ii. 2.*  
NIGHTBRAWLER. *n. f.* [night and brawler.] One who raises disturbances in the night.  
You unlace your reputation,  
And spend your rich opinion for the name  
Of a night-brawler. *Shaksp. Othello.*  
NIGHTCAP. *n. f.* [night and cap.] A cap worn in bed, or in undress.  
The rabblement houted, and clapt their chopt hands, and threw up their sweaty night-caps. *Shaksp. Jul. Caesar.*  
Great mountains have a perception of the disposition of the air to tempests sooner than the vallies below; and therefore they say in Wales, when certain hills have their night-caps on, they mean mischief. *Bacon's Nat. History.*  
How did the humbled swain detect  
His prickly beard, and hairy brest!  
His night-cap border'd round with lace,  
Could give no softness to his face. *Swift's Poems.*  
NIGHTCROW. *n. f.* [night and crow.] A bird that cries in the night.  
The owl shriek'd at thy birth, an evil sign;  
The night-crow cry'd, a boding luckless time. *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTDEW. *n. f.* [night and dew.] Dew that wets the ground in the night.  
All things are hush'd, as nature's self lay dead,  
The mountains seem to nod their drowsy head;  
The little birds in dreams their songs repeat,  
And sleeping flowers beneath the night-dew sweat;  
Even lust and envy sleep. *Dryden's Ind. Emperor.*  
NIGHTDOG. *n. f.* [night and dog.] A dog that hunts in the night. Used by deer-stealers.  
When night-dogs run, all sorts of deer are chased. *Sha.*  
NIGHTDRESS. *n. f.* [night and dress.] The dress worn at night.  
The fair ones feel such maladies as these,  
When each new night-dress gives a new disease. *Pepe.*  
NIGHTED. *adj.* [from night.] Darkened; clouded; black.  
It was great ignorance, Glosser's eyes being out,  
To let him live: Edmund, I think, is gone;  
In pity of his misery to dispatch  
His nighted life. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour off,  
And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark. *Sha.*  
NIGHTFARING. *n. f.* [night and fare.] Travelling in the night.  
Will-a-Wisp misleads; night-faring clowns,  
O'er hills, and sinking bogs, and pathless downs. *Gay.*  
NIGHTFIRE. *n. f.* [night and fire.] Ignis futuus; Will-a-Wisp.  
Foolish night-fires, womens and childrens wilfers,  
Chafes in arras, gilded emptiness;  
These are the pleasures here. *Hesbert.*  
NIGHTFLY. *n. f.* [night and fly.] Moth that flies in the night.  
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoaky cribs,  
And hush'd with buzzing night-flies to thy slumber;  
Than in the perfume'd chambers of the great,  
And hush'd with sounds of sweetest melody? *Shaksp. Lear.*  
NIGHTFOUNDRED. *n. f.* [from night and founder.] Loaf or distressed in the night.  
Either some one like us night-foundered here,  
Or else some neighbour woodman, or at worst,  
Some roving robber calling to his fellows. *Milton.*  
NIGHTGOWN. *n. f.* [night and gown.] A loose gown used for an undress.  
Since his majesty went into the field,  
I have seen her rise from her bed, throw  
Her night-gown upon her. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
They have put me in a silk night-gown, and a gaudy fool's cap. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 113.*  
No meagre mule-ridden mope, adult and thin,  
In a dun night-gown of his own loose skin. *Pepe's Dunc.*  
NIGHTHAG. *n. f.* [night and hag.] Witch supposed to wander in the night.  
Nor uglier follows the night-hag, when called  
In secret, riding through the air she comes  
Lur'd with the smell of infant-blood, to dance  
With Lapland witches. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*  
NIGHTINGALE. *n. f.* [from night and gale, Saxon, to sing; gale, Teutonic, is a sound or echo.]  
1. A small bird that sings in the night with remarkable melody; Philomel.  
I think,  
The nightingale, if she should sing by day,  
When every goose is cackling, would be thought  
No better a musician than the wren. *Shaksp. Lear.*  
Although the wren, the thrush, and tongue, be the instruments of voice, and by their agitations concur in those delightful modulations, yet cannot we assign the cause unto any particular formation; and I perceive the nightingale hath some disadvantage in the tongue. *Brown's P. Err.*  
Thus the wife nightingale that leaves her home,  
Pursuing constantly the cheerful spring,  
To foreign groves does her old music bring. *Walsh.*  
2. A word of endearment.  
My nightingale!  
We'll beat them to their beds. *Shak. Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
NIGHTLY. *adv.* [from night.]  
1. By night.  
Thee, Sion! and the flow'ry brooks beneath,  
That wash thy hallow'd feet, and waiting flow,  
Nightly I visit. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iii.*  
Soon as the evening shades prevail,  
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
And nightly to the listening earth  
Repeats the story of her birth. *Addison's Spectator.*  
2. Every night.  
Let all things suffer,  
He we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep  
In the affliction of those terrible dreams  
That shake us nightly. *Shaksp. Lear.*  
NIGHTLY. *adj.* [from night.] Done by night; acting by night; happening by night.  
May the stars and shining moon attend  
Your nightly sports, as you vouchsafe to tell  
What nymphs they were who mortal forms excel. *Dryd.*  
Soon as the flocks flock off the nightly dew,  
Two swains, whom love kept wakeful and the muse,  
Pour'd o'er the whitening vale their fleecy care. *Pepe.*  
NIGHTMAN. *n. f.* [night and man.] One who carries away ordure in the night.  
NIGHTMARE. *n. f.* [night, and according to *Temple's* *mare*, a spirit that, in the heathen myth *logos*, was related to torment or sulcate sleepers.] A morbid oppression in the night, resembling the pressure of weight upon the breast.  
Saint Withold faced thrice the would,  
He met the nightmare, and her name he told;  
Bid her alight, and her troth plight. *Shaksp. K. Lear.*  
The forerunners of an apoplexy are, dulness, drowsiness, vertiges, tremblings, oppressions in sleep, and night-mare. *Arbutnot on Humors.*  
NIGHTPIECE. *n. f.* [night and piece.] A picture coloured as to be supposed seen by candle light; not by the light of the day.  
He hung a great part of the wall with night-pieces, that seemed to show themselves by the candles which were lighted up; and were so inflamed by the sun-shine which fell upon them, that I could scarce forbear crying out fire. *Addison.*  
NIGHTRAIL. *n. f.* [night and reil, Saxon, a gown or robe.] A loose cover thrown over the dress at night.  
An antiquary will scorn to mention a pinner or night-rail; but will talk as gravely as a father of the church on the vitta and peplus. *Addison on ancient Manners.*  
NIGHTRAVEN. *n. f.* [night and raven.] A bird supposed of ill omen, that cries loud in the night.  
The ill-fac'd owl, death's dreadful messenger,  
The hoarse night-raven, trump of doleful drear. *Spenser.*  
I pray his bad voice bode no mischief;  
I had as lief have heard the night-raven,  
Come what plague would have come after it. *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTROBBER. *n. f.* [night and robber.] One who steals in the dark.  
Highways should be fenced on both sides, whereby thieves and night-robbers might be more easily pursued and encountered. *Spenser's Ireland.*  
NIGHTRULE. *n. f.* [night and rule.] A tumult in the night.  
How now, mad sprite,  
What night-rule now about this haunted grove? *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTSHADE. *n. f.* [night shade, Saxon.]  
1. A plant of two kinds, common and deadly night-shade.  
The flower consists of one leaf, which is divided into five parts, and expands in form of a star: from the flower-cup rises the pointal, which afterward becomes a round, oval, soft, succulent fruit, containing many flat seeds in each. The species are nine. This the physicians have directed to be used in medicine, under the title of *solanum tortuosum*. *Müller.*  
2. Deadly.  
Deadly night-shade (belladonna) a plant. The flower is bell-shaped, of one leaf, divided into five acute segments at the top, and succeeded by a globular soft fruit, divided into two cells which contain the seeds. It is a very strong poison.  
NIGHTSHINING. *n. f.* [night and shine] Shewing brightness in the night. *N. E.*

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None of these nosilica, or night-shining bodies, have been observed in any of the ancient sepulchres. *Wilkin's Dædalus.*  
NIGHTSHRIEK. *n. f.* [night and shriek.] A cry in the night.  
I have almost forgot the taste of fears:  
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd  
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair  
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir,  
As life were in't. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
NIGHTTRIPPING. *n. f.* [night and trip.] Going lightly in the night.  
Could it be prov'd,  
That some night-tripping fairy had exchanged  
In cradle cloths, our children where they lay,  
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine. *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTWALK. *n. f.* [night and walk.] Walk in the night.  
If in his night-walk he met with irregular scholars, he took their names, and a promise to appear, unfert for, next morning. *Walton's Life of Sanderson.*  
NIGHTWALKER. *n. f.* [night and walk.] One who roves in the night upon ill designs.  
Men that hunt so, be either privy stealers, or night-walkers. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*  
NIGHTWARBLING. [night and warble.] Singing in the night.  
Now is the pleasant time,  
The cool, the silent, fave where silence yields  
To the night-warbling bird. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*  
NIGHTWARD. *adj.* [night and ward.] Approaching towards night.  
Their night-ward studies, wherewith they close the day's work. *Milton on Education.*  
NIGHTWATCH. *n. f.* [night and watch.] A period of the night as distinguished by change of the watch.  
I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night-watches. *Psalms lxxiii. 6.*  
NIGHTSCENT. *adj.* [night, and scent, Latin.] Growing black; approaching to blackness.  
NIGHTSIGHT. *n. f.* [night and sight.] The act of making black.  
NIGHTLIT. *n. f.* [night, and lit, Fr. *nocturnus*, Latin.] Nothingness; the state of being nothing.  
Not being is considered as excluding all substance, and then all modes are also necessarily excluded; and this we call pure *nothing*, or mere nothing. *Watts's Logic.*  
To NILL. *v. a.* [from *ne will*, nillan, Saxon.] Not to will; to refuse; to resist.  
Certes, said he, I will thine offer'd grace,  
Ne to be made so happy do intend,  
Another bliss before mine eyes I place.  
In all affections the concurrent still;  
Another happiness, another end. *Spenser's Fairy Q.*  
If now, with man and wife to will and nill  
The self-same things, a note of concord be,  
I know no couple better can agree. *Ben. Johnson.*  
NILL. *v. a.* The shining sparks of brass in trying and melting the ore.  
To NIM. *v. a.* [nim, Dutch, to take.] To take. In cant, to steal.  
They'll question Mars, and by his look  
Detect who 'twas that *nimm'd* a cloak. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
They could not keep themselves honest of their fingers,  
but would be *nimming* something or other for the love of thieving. *L'Estrange, Fable 241.*  
NIMBLE. *adj.* [from nim, or niman, Saxon, tractable.] Quick; active; ready; speedily; lively; expeditious.  
They being nimble-joined than the rest,  
And more industrious, gathered more store. *Spenser.*  
You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding flames  
Into her scornful eyes. *Shaksp. K. Lear.*  
You have dancing shoes  
With nimble soles. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*  
His off'ring soon propitious fire from heaven,  
Consum'd with nimble glance and grateful steam;  
The others not, for his was not sincere. *Mil. P. Lost.*  
Thro' the mid seas the nimble pinnace sails,  
Aloof from Crete before the northern gales. *Pepe.*  
NIMBLENESS. *n. f.* [from nimble.] Quickness; activity; speed; agility; readiness; dexterity; celerity; expedition; swiftness.  
The hounds were straight uncoupled, and ere long the flag thought it better to trust to the nimbleness of his feet, than to the slender fortification of his lodging. *Sidney.*  
Himself shewing at one instant both steadiness and nimbleness. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
All things are therefore partakers of God; they are his offspring, his influence is in them, and the personal wisdom of God is for that very cause said to excel in nimbleness or agility, to pierce into all intellectual, pure and subtle spirits, to go through all, and to reach unto every thing which is. *Hooker, b. v. f. 5.*  
We, lying still,  
Are full of rest, defence and *nimbleness*. *Shaksp.*  
Ovid ranged over all Parnassus with great nimbleness and

# NIP

agility; but as he did not much care for the toil requisite to climb the upper part of the hill, he was generally roving about the bottom. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 115.*  
NIMBLEWITTED. *adj.* [nimble and witty.] Quick; eager to speak.  
Sir Nicholas Bacon, when a certain nimble-witted counsellor at the bar, who was forward to speak, did interrupt him often, said unto him, There is a great difference betwixt you and me; a pain to me to speak, and a pain to you to hold your peace. *Bacon's Apophth. 124.*  
NIMBLY. *adv.* [from nimble.] Quickly; speedily; actively.  
He capers nimble in a lady's chamber,  
To the lascivious playing of a lute. *Sha. Rich. III.*  
The air  
Nimble and sweetly recommends itself. *Shaksp.*  
Most legs can nimble run, tho' some be lame. *Davies.*  
The liquor we poured from the crystals, and set it in a digesting furnace to evaporate more *nimble*. *Boyle.*  
NIMBLESS. *n. f.* Nimbleness. *Spenser.*  
NIMMIETY. *n. f.* [nimicitas, school Latin.] The state of being too much.  
NIMMER. *n. f.* [from nim.] A thief; a pilferer.  
NINCOMPPOOP. *n. f.* [A corruption of the Latin *non compos*.] A fool; a trifler.  
An old ninnyhammer, a dotard, a *nincompoop*, is the best language she can afford me. *Addison.*  
NINE. *n. f.* [nīm, Gothic; nigon, Saxon.] One more than eight; one less than ten.  
The weyward fifters,  
Thus do go about, about,  
Thrice to thine and thrice to mine,  
And thrice again, to make up nine. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
A thousand scruples may startle at first, and yet in conclusion prove but a nine-days wonder. *L'Estrange.*  
The faults are nine in ten owing to affectation, and not to the want of understanding. *Swift's Miscell.*  
NINEFOLD. *n. f.* [nine and fold.] Nine times; any thing nine times repeated.  
This huge convex of fire,  
Outragious to deavour, immures us round *ninefold*. *Mil.*  
NINEPENNY. *n. f.* [nine and penny.] A silver coin valued at nine-pence.  
Three silver pennies, and a nine-pence bent. *Gay's Poet.*  
NINEPINS. *n. f.* [nine and pin.] A play where nine pins of wood are set up on the ground to be thrown down by a ball.  
A painter made blossoms upon the trees in December, and school-boys playing at nine-pins upon the ice in July. *Peacomb on Drawing.*  
For as when merchants break, o'erthrown  
Like nine-pins, they strike others down. *Hud. p. ii.*  
NINESCORE. *adj.* [nine and score.] Nine times twenty.  
Eugenius has two hundred pounds a year; but never values himself above nine-score, as not thinking he has a right to the tenth part, which he always appropriates to charitable uses. *Addison's Spectator, N<sup>o</sup>. 177.*  
NINETEEN. *adj.* [nigonzene, Saxon.] Nine and ten; one less than twenty.  
Nineteen in twenty of perplexing words might be changed into easy ones, such as occur to ordinary men. *Swift.*  
NINETEENTH. *adj.* [nigonzeeotha, Saxon.] The ordinal of nineteen; the ninth after the tenth.  
In the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan. *2 Kings xxv. 8.*  
NINETY. *adj.* [nūnigontez, Saxon.] Nine times ten.  
Enos lived ninety years and begat Cainan. *Gen. v. 9.*  
NINTH. *adj.* [nezotha, Saxon.] That which precedes the tenth; the first after the eighth; the ordinal of nine.  
Upon a strict observation of many, I have not found any that see the ninth day. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
NINTIETH. *adj.* [nūnigontezotha, Saxon.] The ordinal of ninety; the tenth nine times told.  
NINNY. *n. f.* [ninn, a child, Spanish.] A fool; a simpleton.  
What a pied ninny's this?  
The dean was so shabby, and look'd like a ninny,  
That the captain suppos'd he was curate. *Swift.*  
NINNYHAMMER. *n. f.* [from ninny.] A simpleton.  
Another vents her passion in scurrilous terms; an old ninnyhammer, a dotard, a nincompoop, is the best language she can afford me. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 109.*  
Have you no more manners than to rail at Hocus, that has saved that clod-pated, numskull'd, ninnyhammer of yours from ruin, and all his family. *Arbutnot, John Bull.*  
To NIP. *v. a.* [nipen, Dutch.]  
1. To pinch off with the nails; to bite with the teeth.  
In oranges and lemons, the nipping of their rind giveth out their smell more. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N<sup>o</sup>. 388.*  
2. To cut off by any slight means.  
The small shoots that extract the sap of the most leading branches, must be nipped off. *Mortimer's Husb.*  
3. To blast; to destroy before full growth.  
This is the state of man; to-day he puts forth

The